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HODGES UNIVERSITY IS NOW A TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS



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Naples, Fla. - As of January 1, 2018, Hodges University has become a tobacco free campus, joining 34 other colleges and universities in the state of Florida that have committed to becoming 100% tobacco free. Hodges University's tobacco free policy helps to establish an atmosphere of wellness on campus and a supportive setting for those trying to quit tobacco, further enhancing their mission of providing a safe and healthy environment for their staff, faculty, students and campus visitors.

By becoming tobacco free, Hodges University has joined Florida Southwestern State College and Florida Gulf Coast University as the only higher-level institutions with tobacco free campuses in Southwest Florida.

While smoking rates are at an all-time low in the state of Florida, research shows that tobacco free campus policies have assisted in the reduction of smoking rates¹. Medical studies have shown that tobacco smoke exposure in any form not only harms the user but also bystanders². Policies such as these help to protect students, faculty and staff from exposure to secondhand smoke which contains hundreds of toxins, including 70 that are known to cause cancer.

"Implementing tobacco free policies on university and college campuses not only improves the health of these communities and helps make Florida a healthier state, but also helps to change attitudes toward tobacco," said Nina Garcia, Tobacco Prevention Program Manager.

As a part of their tobacco free campus initiative, Hodges University is providing students, faculty and staff with cessation resources. The institution also plans to host on-site cessation classes.

To learn more about the institutions policy visit <https://www.hodges.edu/tobacco-free/> and click on "Tobacco-Free Policy".

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¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010.

² U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Services, The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General (2014), <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-adopting-tobacco-free-policies-on-campus>